
HOUSE BILL 2353

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives McDermott, Cody and Appleton

Read first time 02/23/2007. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to passenger-only ferry service; amending RCW
2 36.54.110; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.54.110 and 2006 c 332 s 7 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The legislative authority of a county may adopt an ordinance
7 creating a ferry district in all or a portion of the area of the
8 county, including the area within the corporate limits of any city or
9 town within the county. The ordinance may be adopted only after a
10 public hearing has been held on the creation of a ferry district, and
11 the county legislative authority makes a finding that it is in the
12 public interest to create the district.

13 (2) A ferry district is a municipal corporation, an independent
14 taxing "authority" within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the
15 state Constitution, and a "taxing district" within the meaning of
16 Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution.

17 (3) A ferry district is a body corporate and possesses all the
18 usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other

1 powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by statute,
2 including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff,
3 and services, to enter into contracts, and to sue and be sued.

4 (4) The members of the county legislative authority, acting ex
5 officio and independently, shall compose the governing body of any
6 ferry district that is created within the county. The voters of a
7 ferry district must be registered voters residing within the boundaries
8 of the district.

9 (5) A county with a population greater than one million persons and
10 having a boundary on Puget Sound, or a county to the west of Puget
11 Sound with a population greater than two hundred thirty thousand but
12 less than three hundred thousand persons, proposing to create a ferry
13 district to assume a passenger-only ferry route between Vashon and
14 Seattle, including an expansion of that route to include Southworth,
15 shall first receive approval from the governor after submitting a
16 complete business plan to the governor and the legislature by November
17 1, 2006. The business plan must, at a minimum, include hours of
18 operation, vessel needs, labor needs, proposed routes, passenger
19 terminal facilities, passenger rates, anticipated federal and local
20 funding, coordination with Washington state ferry system, coordination
21 with existing transit providers, long-term operation and maintenance
22 needs, and long-term financial plan. The business plan may include
23 provisions regarding coordination with an appropriate county to
24 participate in a joint ferry under RCW 36.54.030 through 36.54.070. In
25 order to be considered for assuming the route, the ferry district shall
26 ensure that the route will be operated only by the ferry district and
27 not contracted out to a private entity, all existing labor agreements
28 will be honored, and operations will begin no later than July 1,
29 ((2007)) 2008. If the route is to be expanded to include serving
30 Southworth, the ferry district shall enter into an interlocal agreement
31 with the public transportation benefit area serving the Southworth
32 ferry terminal within thirty days of beginning Southworth ferry
33 service. For the purposes of this subsection, Puget Sound is
34 considered as extending north to Admiralty Inlet.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
36 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 June 30, 2007.

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